

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 271359Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7670

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1077

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, EINV, PFOR, PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND THE PRINCE

1. SUMMARY: PREVIOUSLY TABOO SUBJECTS OF ABDICATION, REVISION OF CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, AND PRIVATE LIFE OF THE PRINCE ARE CREEPING INTO PUBLIC DOMAIN. GROUND RULES ON WHAT IS PERMISSIBLE AREA FOR DISCUSSION AND INVESTIGATION ARE CHANGING. END SUMMARY.

2. FROM THE BEGINNING, THE ALLEGATIONS PRINCE BERNHARD'S BRIBERY BY LOCKHEED HAVE REAISED QUESTION OF THE EFFECT THE AFFAIR WILL HAVE UPON THE MONARCHY IN HOLLAND, BOTH IN THE NEAR TERM FOR THE QUEEN AND IN THE LONGER TERM FOR THE HOUSE OF ORANGE. HOVERING IN THE BACKGROUND HAS BEEN THE SHADOW OF EVEN  
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GREATER SCANDAL CONCERNING THE PRINCE. UNTIL NOW, THESE

ISSUES AND CONCERNS HAVE REMAINED MATTERS FOR PRIVATE SPECULATION, NOT CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC AIRING.

3. WHILE DUTCH REMAIN RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS PUBLICLY ROLE OF ROYAL FAMILY AND PRIVATE CONDUCT OF ITS MEMBERS THERE IS EVIDENCE OF EROSION. RECENTLY NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO CARRY COMMENTS, ALTHOUGH CAREFULLY COUNCHED, REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE MONARCHY. MOST NEWSPAPERS HAVE RESTRICTED THEIR OBSERVATIONS TO THE ROLE THE ROYAL FAMILY SHOULD PROPERLY PLAY, I.E. SHOULD MEMBERS SERVE AS COMPANY DIRECTORS (THE PRINCE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF MANY BOARDS), SHOULD THEY BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC AS PRIVATE CITIZENS OR MUST ROYAL UTTERANCES BE IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY, ETC. "ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD" (LARGE CIRCULATION CONSERVATIVE SISTER-NEWSPAPER OF THE HIGHLY RESPECTED "NRC HANDELSBLAD") BROKE WITH THAT PATTERN FEB 21 WHEN IT EDITORIALY QUESTIONED CONTINUATION OF THE MONARCHY UNDER PRESENT TERMS. THE EDITORIAL ARGUES FOR TRANSFORMING THE DUTCH SYSTEM INTO A MODERN MONARCHY SUBJECT TO GREATER PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY.

4. MORE EMBARRASSMENT FOR PRINCE: UNTIL NOW THE SUBJECT OF HINTS AND RUMORS, PRINCE'S PRIVATE LIFE HAS BECOME MATTER FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. TWO LEFT-WING LABOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE ASKED GON TO LOOK BEYOND ISSUE WHETHER PRINCE ACCEPTED LOCKHEED MONEY AND FOCUS ALSO ON PRINCE'S EXPENDITURES. THEY SUGGEST THAT COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO DUTCH TV TAPE OF JACK ANDERSON INTERVIEW. THIS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE INFORMATION LIKE THAT PUBLISHED IN SUNDAY TELEGRAPH--AND REPEATED IN "DE TELEGRAAF," NEETHERLANDS' LARGEST CIRCULATION PAPER (CONSERVATIVE), THAT PRINCE IN 1962-3 BOUGHT APARTMENT IN PARIS AND MAINTAINED A RELATIONSHIP WITH A FRENCH WOMAN NAMED "POUPETTE," SAID TO BE SISTER OF THEN FRENCH TENNIS CHAMPION JEAN NOEL GRINDA. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FEB 26, PRIMIN DEN UYL SAID COMMISSION WAS FREE TO FOLLOW ANY LINE OF INQUIRY IT DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

5. COMMENT: IT IS BECOMING APPARENT THAT LONG-STANDING UNWRITTEN BUT WIDELY OBSERVED GROUND RULES ON WHAT CAN BE SAID OR PRINTED IN PUBLIC ABOUT ROYAL HOUSE ARE CHANGING. IN TIME FURTHER STORIES MAY BE EXPECTED. WHILE THESE WILL  
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NOT INFLUENCE THE WORK OF THE DONNER COMMISSION, THEY WILL AFFECT THE CLIMATE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PRINCE. REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF BERNHARD AFFAIR, FUNCTION OF MONARCHY IN MODERN DEMOCRATIC STATE HAS NOW BECOME ISSUE FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION.  
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## Message Attributes

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